

# AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

**January 18, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Vice Chairman Travis Clark with Randy Niles, Roger Hanten, and John Paul Studeny present. Absent was Clyde Dethlefsen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no public input.

The agenda was amended by adding weed board appointment and deleting abatement from the agenda. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 4th. Motion carried all voting aye.

Highway superintendent Doug Vissia and highway secretary Nancy Beckman were present for the highway report.

Commissioner Clark asked Highway Superintendent Vissia if the snow blade was put on the 4-wheeler. Vissia said it has not. Clark instructed him to have Derek start working on getting the mount done as soon as possible.

Clark told Vissia that it had been reported that a maintainer and payloader were being fueled up at Vollan Oil and asked why because Total Oil had the fuel bid. Vissia told the Commission the Stickney shop was out of fuel, so they filled the machines at Vollan. Secretary Beckman said she called Total Oil as soon as she was told the tank was out. Vissia noted the fuel tanks in White Lake and Aurora Center were gelled up and they had trouble getting fuel out.

Commissioner Clark asked if the blade was being housed in the Storla shop. Highway Superintendent Vissia said he moved the Storla blade down to the Plankinton shop for the winter. He told the Board he has done this for the past 3 or 4 years.

Commissioner Hanten wanted to know who blades up north by Borgman's and Kroupa's. Vissia told him German does the area by Kroupa and the Plankinton blade does Borgman's area. It is a long way for the Plankinton blade to go when the White Lake blade is up there taking care of the roads by Kroupa's. Commissioner Studeny said

there will always be two routes that are going to be right next to each other and meet. You need to draw the route line at some point, said Studeny.

Superintendent Vissia noted blade operator Clint Moore is using the blade from Aurora Center while his is broke down and Steven Nussbaum is using the old Cat. Vissia also told the Commission that Clint's blade is covered under warranty. Hanten and Niles asked if Butler was going to give us a loaner since we are without one and it is under warranty. Vissia said no, they are not giving us a loaner to use.

Commissioner Clark expressed his concerns about using chains to pull out equipment with. In his opinion, Clark suggested getting rid of the chains and using heavy duty straps instead. It's much safer and you can pull equipment out much quicker and easier, said Clark. Commissioner Hanten noted that when the blade was stuck a few weeks ago north of White Lake, the county had other equipment up there that could have been moving snow rather than just sitting there waiting for someone to get there to help pull it out. They could have had the snow pushed out and it would have helped Mark Hanten to be able to get to the blade that was stuck. Hanten also noted that we should have a tow rope in every blade.

Commissioner Hanten recommended that the payloader be sitting inside a shed during cold weather rather than sitting outside. Vissia said there's no room in the shop to put it. Hanten said he remembers having 3 maintainers and other pieces of equipment in the shop at one time. Doug stated we do not have the room and we need to have our service truck inside. Hanten suggested looking at storing the payloader in another shop since there is no room in the Plankinton shop.

Commissioner Hanten asked Superintendent Vissia if the county blade was using the wing going out of White Lake to help with the snow. Vissia said he did not know. Hanten said it does not cost us anything to do this because we are going down it anyway. "Haven't we asked you to do this several times now"? said Hanten. You have, responded Vissia. Commissioner Clark directed Doug to have the White Lake blade operator wing the snow when he goes down it.

It was also noted that the blades were throwing too much sod. Commissioner Clark said he has had areas where the ground was still very soft, so it may not be totally frozen yet. Clark told Doug to have the guys make sure they do not get too much sod with the blade.

Commissioner Clark asked if the highway department has ever considered using rubber blades on the trucks for the oil roads. Depending on the type of snow, the rubber blades would help take the pressure and work load off the blade operators.

Commissioner Niles asked Secretary Beckman if she has heard anything on when we will receive our FEMA funds. She told the Commission she sent an email and was informed that they are working on it as time permits.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize highway superintendent Vissia to attend the asphalt conference in Oacoma on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on the motor grader bid that was approved back in June of 2023. At the last meeting, the Commission had suggested getting a mount installed on the John Deere ripper so it will fit all the Cat motor graders. As per the Commissioners direction, Doug checked with Steve's Welding about making an adaptor/bracket for the John Deere ripper so it can be mounted on a Cat motor grader. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize highway superintendent Vissia to sign a revised purchase agreement with Butler for a grader without a ripper at the cost of \$478,641.60. Motion carried all voting aye.

The county's annual bid letting will be March 7, 2024.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to sign the James Valley Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force Joint Powers Agreement. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to appoint Matt Koch to the weed board. Motion carried all voting aye. Other members of the weed board are Rodney Schabot, Jim Evans, and Ronnie Prien with Commissioner Dethlefsen being the county representative.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to attend a woody encroachment meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> in Mitchell. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Hanten to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to attend a homeland security meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> in Brookings. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to attend a regional tabletop exercise on April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Yankton. Motion carried all voting aye.

Kehn updated the Commission on the countywide 365 emails for more secure emails. Connecting Point sent a quote to switch 18 email accounts over at a cost of \$4,218.00. If the grant is awarded, this cost will be 100% funded by the Homeland Security Grant.

Emergency Manager Kehn informed the Commission the cable for the White Lake repeater was replaced with a new one, but has not been working properly since it was installed. There have been static issues with it and it is worse than it was before, said Kehn. He told the Board he has contacted Vikor several times about the problems, but has not gotten any response from them. An invoice was received from Vikor in the amount of \$4,358.43. The Commission agreed not to pay the invoice until the problem is taken care of.

Weed Supervisor Kehn informed the Commission that the upcoming weed conference will cost the county \$550 for registration and dues, approximately \$600 in lodging, and wages for the time spent at the conference. By attending the conference, the County received \$5,100 in grant money for chemical last year. With the increased expenses to attend we are getting less in grant money, said Kehn. Commissioner Studeny stated the county is going to pay the wages regardless of whether you go, but it's still worth attending and we are getting free money to help with chemical expenses. Kehn said he just wanted to let the Commission know how much it is costing. The Commission agreed that it is well worth the time if we can get grant money just by attending.

States Attorney Rachel Mairose told the Commission the county has received approximately \$1,600 in payments from the national opioid settlement that was paid out to participating government entities. She said she had thought about bringing Angela Kennecke to the county to speak and would use the funds to help pay the cost. Rachel informed the Commission that Kennecke will be sharing her story on opioid addiction with the Plankinton and Mt Vernon students in March at the Mt Vernon School. Since this was something she wanted to do, Rachel suggested using the funds to help with the cost to have her speak. The Commission told Rachel since it is county money, it should be available to all the schools in Aurora County. Mairose noted that it will be open to the public so Corsica/Stickney and White Lake student could attend if they so choose. The Commission did not feel comfortable doing it this way and asked if an invite could be sent out to Corsica/Stickney and White Lake Schools. Rachel said she would check with Plankinton School about an invite to the other schools. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded

by Hanten to use the money to help pay for the cost, contingent upon the offer to invite to the Corsica/Stickney and White Lake high school students to attend the presentation as well. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to file reports and pay vouchers as listed below. Motion carried all voting aye.

**Reports: Wheel Tax Paid: Cities \$392.29; Townships \$268.72.**

CLAIMS :

COMMISSIONERS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	47.75
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		47.75 *
JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
ALVINE LAW FIRM	CAA	128.40
CERTIFIED LANGUAGES INTERNATIO	INTERPRETING FEES FOR COURT	59.40
HEIN LAW OFFICE	CAA - JUVENILE	1550.82
AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE HEALTH	B/A (5)	685.00
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT OF HEALTH	B/A (2)	80.00
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		2503.62 *
AUDITOR		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	56.91
P M B 0112	NOVEMBER ACCESS & MGMT FEES	69.25
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DECEMBER CONNECT CARE	98.42
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		224.58 *
TREASURER		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAXES & INTERNET	68.40
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DECEMBER CONNECT CARE	147.51
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		215.91 *
COURTHOUSE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	42.62
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	9.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DECEMBER CONNECT CARE	49.17
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		100.79 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	68.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DECEMBER CONNECT CARE	98.34
VANGUARD APPRAISALS	ENTIRE VANGUARD SYSTEM PROGRAM	8775.00
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		8941.34 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAXES & INTERNET	62.66
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		62.66 *
VA OFFICE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	53.08
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DECEMBER CONNECT CARE	49.17
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		102.25 *
SHERIFF		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	106.45
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	52.33
HILLMANS REPAIR	OIL CHANGE IN 2023 FORD - ROMA	63.06
JAMES VALLEY DRUG TASK FORCE	2024 DUES	6250.00
MALCOLM LAFORTUNE	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	162.49
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	BRAKE PADS, GEN MAINT & OIL CH	1136.38
SOUTH DAKOTA SHERIFF ASSOC	2024 DUES	582.41
TRITECH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS	COMPUTER SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION	2986.29
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DECEMBER CONNECT CARE	393.36
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		11732.77 *
JAIL		
BRULE COUNTY	DECEMBER JAIL HOUSING	682.00
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	DECEMBER JAIL HOUSING	2600.00
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		3282.00 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	4.95
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DECEMBER CONNECT CARE	49.17
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		54.12 *
AG BUILDING		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	20.55
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		20.55 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	58.61
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DECEMBER CONNECT CARE	98.34
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		156.95 *
WEED		
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	LANDFILL ELECTRCITY	62.00
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	4.95
WEED & PEST CONFERENCE	2024 DUES	200.00
WEED & PEST CONFERENCE	REGISTRATION FOR WEED CONF	350.00
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		616.95 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
AUCA CHICAGO MC LOCKBOX	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	12.18
AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE	DRUG TESTING	112.00
DAVID BOGENHAGEN	LOADER RENT	48.93
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	116.13
GRAHAM TIRE - SIOUX FALLS	GRADER TIRES & TIRE PLUGS	1383.00
LYLE SIGNS	SIGNS	604.58
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL IN STORLA	31.00
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	SPRAY FOAM, AIR FRESHNERS & SW	40.96
RDO EQUIPMENT COMPANY	GRADER WATER PUMP REPAIRS	2769.88
SDSU	ASPHALT CONFERENCE REG	125.00
TOTAL OIL	FUEL	3309.13
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DECEMBER CONNECT CARE	98.34
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		8651.13 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
DAVID BOGENHAGEN	LOADER RENT	50.89
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		50.89 *

E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 1-1 TO 1-31-24	200.00
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	E-911 SERVICES 1-1 TO 1-31-24	357.44
MITCHELL REGIONAL 911	TRAFFIC STOPS 1-1 TO 3-31-24	2248.83
MITCHELL REGIONAL 911	E-911 SERVICES 1-1 TO 3-31-24	9992.21
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 1-1 TO 1-31-24	30.00
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		12828.48 *

EM&D		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	59.49
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DECEMBER CONNECT CARE	49.17
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		108.66 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	275.00
P M B 0112	MICROFILM STORAGE	58.96
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DECEMBER CONNECT CARE	147.51
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		481.47 *

Total Checks: 50,182.87 \*

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

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Travis Clark, Vice Chairman  
Aurora County Commission

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Urban, Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost \_\_\_\_\_.